

# WAG

**WAFTAGE**. *n. f.* [from *waft*.] Carriage by water or air. Not in use.  
 What ship of Epidamnus stays for me? —  
 —A ship you sent me to, to hire *waftage*. *Shakespeare.*  
 I stalk about her door,  
 Like a strange soul upon the Stygian banks,  
 Staying for *waftage*. *Shakespeare. Troilus and Cressida.*  
**WAFTER**. *n. f.* [from *waft*.] A passage boat. *Ainsworth.*  
**WAFTURE**. *n. f.* [from *waft*.] The act of waving. Not in use.  
 You answer'd not;  
 But with an angry *wafture* of your hand  
 Gave sign for me to leave you. *Shakespeare. Julius Caesar.*  
**TO WAG**. *v. a.* [Daxian, Saxon; *waggen*, Dutch.] To move lightly; to shake slightly.  
 I can counterfeit the deep tragedian;  
 Tremble and start at *wagging* of a straw. *Shakespeare.*  
 You may as well forbid the mountain pines  
 To *wag* their high tops, and to make a noise,  
 When they are fretted with the gusts of heav'n. *Shakespeare.*  
 All that pass, hiss and *wag* their head at thee. *La. ii. 15.*  
 Thou canst not *wag* thy finger, or begin  
 The least light motion, but it tends to sin. *Dryden.*  
 So have I seen in black and white,  
 A prating thing, a magpye high,  
 Majestically stalk;  
 A stately, worthless animal,  
 That plies the tongue, and *wags* the tail,  
 All flutter, pride, and talk. *Swift.*  
**TO WAG**. *v. n.*  
 1. To be in quick or ludicrous motion.  
 Be merry, my wife has all;  
 For women are shrews, both short and tall;  
 'Tis merry in hall, where beards *wag* all. *Shakespeare.*  
 I will fight with him upon this theme,  
 Until my eyelids will no longer *wag*. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*  
 2. To go; to be moved.  
 I will provoke him to't, or let him *wag*. *Shakespeare.*  
 Her charms she mutter'd o'er;  
 And yet the ruddy *wags* d'ne'er the more;  
 I wept for woe. *Dryden's Theodorus.*  
**WAG**. *n. f.* [Daxian, Saxon, to cheat.] Any one ludicrously mischievous; a merry droll.  
 Cupid the *wags*, that lately conquer'd had  
 Wife counsellors, stout captains puissant;  
 And ty'd them fast to lead his triumphs bad,  
 Glutted with them, now plays with meanness things. *Sidney.*  
 Was not my lord the verier *wag* o' th' two?  
 We wink at *wags*, when they offend, *Shakespeare.*  
 And spare the boy, in hopes the man may mend. *Dryden.*  
 A counsellor never pleaded without a piece of packthread in  
 his hand, which he us'd to twist about a finger all the  
 while he was speaking: the *wags* us'd to call it the thread of  
 his discourse. *Addison.*  
**WAGE**. *n. f.* the plural *wages* is now only us'd. [*wagen*, or  
*wagen*, German; *gages*, Fr.]  
 1. Pay given for service.  
 All friends shall taste  
 The *wages* of their virtue, and all foes  
 The cup of their deservings. *Shakespeare. K. Lear.*  
 The last petition is for my men; they are the poorest,  
 But poverty could never draw them from me;  
 That they may have their *wages* duly paid them,  
 And something over to remember me. *Shakespeare.*  
 By Tom Thumb, a fairy page;  
 He sent it, and doth him engage,  
 By promise of a mighty *wage*  
 It secretly to carry. *Dryden's Nymphs.*  
 The thing itself is not only our duty, but our glory; and  
 he who hath done this work, has, in the very work, partly  
 received his *wages*. *South.*  
 2. Gage; pledge. *Ainsworth.*  
**TO WAGE**. *v. a.* [The origination of this word, which is  
 now only us'd in the phrase to *wage war*, is not easily dis-  
 covered: *wagen*, in German, is to attempt any thing dan-  
 gerous.]  
 1. To attempt; to venture.  
 We must not think the Turk is so unskillful,  
 Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain,  
 To wake and *wage* a danger profitless. *Shakespeare.*  
 2. To make; to carry on. Applied to war.  
 Return to her, and fifty men dismiss'd!  
 No; rather I abjure all roofs, and chuse  
 To *wage* against the enemy o' th' air,  
 To be a comrade with the wolf. *Shakespeare. K. Lear.*  
 Your reputation *wages war* with the enemies of your royal  
 family, even within their trenches. *Dryden.*  
 He ponder'd, which of all his sons was fit  
 To reign, and *wage* immortal war with wit. *Dryden.*  
 3. [From *wag*, *wagen*.] To set to hire.  
 Thou must *wage*  
 Thy works for wealth, and life for gold engage. *F. Queen.*

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4. To take to hire; to hire for pay; to hold in pay; to employ  
 for wages.  
 I seem'd his follower, not partner; and  
 He *wag*'d me with his countenance, as if  
 I had been mercenary. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
 The officers of the admiralty having places of so good be-  
 nefit, it is their parts, being well *waged* and rewarded,  
 exactly to look into the found building of ships. *Raleigh.*  
 The king had erected his courts of ordinary resort, and  
 was at the charge not only to *wage* justice and their ministers,  
 but also to appoint the safe custody of records. *Bacon.*  
 This great lord came not over with any great number of  
*waged* soldiers. *Davies's Ireland.*  
 5. [In law.]  
 When an action of debt is brought against one, as for  
 money or chattels, left or lent the defendant, the defendant  
 may *wage* his law; that is, swear, and certain persons with  
 him, that he owes nothing to the plaintiff in manner as he  
 hath declared. The offer to make the oath is called *wager*  
 of law; and when it is accomplished, it is called the making  
 or doing of law. *Blount.*  
**WAGER**. *n. f.* [from *wage*, to venture.]  
 1. A bet; any thing pledged upon a chance or performance.  
 Love and mischief made a *wager*, which should have most  
 power in me. *Sidney.*  
 The sea strove with the winds which should be louder;  
 and the shrouds of the ship, with a ghastly noise to them that  
 were in it, witness'd that their ruin was the *wager* of the  
 other's contention. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
 Full fast the fled, ne'er look'd behind;  
 As if her life upon the *wager* lay. *Fairy Queen.*  
 Besides these plates for horse-races, the *wagers* may be as  
 the persons please. *Temple.*  
 Factious, and favouring this or t'other side,  
 Their *wagers* back their wishes. *Dryden.*  
 If any atheist can stake his soul for a *wager*, against such  
 an inexhaustible disproportion; let him never hereafter accuse  
 others of credulity. *Bentley's Sermon.*  
 2. [In law.] An offer to make oath. See to *wage* in law.  
 Multiplication of actions upon the case were formerly, and  
 thereby *wager* of law outed, which discouraged many suits. *Hale.*  
**TO WAGER**. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To lay; to pledge as a  
 bet; to pledge upon some casualty or performance.  
 'Twas merry, when you *wager*'d on your angling. *Shakespeare.*  
 He that will lay much to stake upon every flying story,  
 may as well *wager* his estate which way the wind will sit  
 next morning. *Government of the Tongue.*  
 I feed my father's flock;  
 What can I *wager* from the common stock? *Dryden.*  
**WAGES**. *n. f.* See **WAGE**.  
**WAGGERY**. *n. f.* [from *wag*.] Mischievous merriment; ro-  
 guish trick; farcical gaiety.  
 'Tis not the *waggeries* or cheats practis'd among school-  
 boys, that make an able man; but the principles of justice,  
 generosity, and sobriety. *Lect.*  
**WAGGISH**. *adj.* [from *wag*] Knavishly merry; merrily mis-  
 chievous; frolicsome.  
 Change fear and niceness,  
 The handmaids of all women, or, more truly,  
 Woman its pretty self, to *waggish* courage. *Shakespeare.*  
 This new conceit is the *waggish* suggestion of some fly and  
 sculking atheists. *Mare's Divine Dialogue.*  
 A company of *waggish* boys watching of frogs at the side of  
 a pond, still as any of them put up their heads, they would  
 be pelting them down with stones. Children, says one of  
 the frogs, you never consider, that though this may be play  
 to you, 'tis death to us. *L'Estrange.*  
 As boys, on holidays let loose to play,  
 Lay *waggish* traps for girls that pass that way;  
 Then shout to see in dirt and deep distress  
 Some silly cit. *Dryden.*  
**WAGGISHNESS**. *n. f.* [from *waggish*.] Merry mischief.  
 A christian boy in Constantinople had like to have been  
 stoned for gaggings, in a *waggishness*, a long billed fowl. *Bacon.*  
**TO WAGGLE**. *v. n.* [*wagghelen*, German.] To waddle; to  
 move from side to side.  
 The sport Basilus would shew to Zelmane, was the  
 mounting of his hawk at a heron, which getting up on his  
*waggle* wings with pain, as though the air next to the  
 earth were not fit for his great body to fly through, was now  
 grown to diminish the sight of himself. *Sidney.*  
 Why do you go nodding and *waggle* so, as if hip-flot?  
 says the goose to her gosling. *L'Estrange.*  
**WAGON**. *n. f.* [Daxian, Sax. *waghen*, Dutch; *wagen*, Icelandic.]  
 1. A heavy carriage for burthens.  
 The Hungarian tents, were enclosed round with *waggon*,  
 one chained to another. *Kneller's Hist. of the Tart.*  
*Waggon* fraught with utensils of war. *Milton.*  
 2. A chariot. Not in use.  
 Now fair Phœbus 'gan decline in haste,  
 His weary *waggon* to the western vale. *Spenser.*  
 Then

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Then to her *waggon* she betak'd,  
 And with her bears the witch. *Spenser.*  
 O Proserpina,  
 For the flowers now that frighted thou let'st fall  
 From Dis's *waggon*. *Shakespeare.*  
 Her *waggon* spoked made of long spinners legs;  
 The cover, of the wings of grasshoppers. *Shakespeare.*  
**WAGONNER**. *n. f.* [from *waggon*.] One who drives a wa-  
 gon.  
 By this, the northern *waggoner* had set  
 His sevenfold team behind the steadfast star,  
 That was in ocean waves yet never wet. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*  
 Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,  
 Tow'rd Phœbus' mansion! such a *waggoner*  
 As Phaeton would whip you to the west. *Shakespeare.*  
 A *waggoner* took notice upon the creaking of a wheel,  
 that it was the worst wheel that made most noise. *L'Estrange.*  
 The *waggoners* that curl their standing teams,  
 Would wake e'en drowsy Drusus from his dreams. *Dryden.*  
 I deserv'd to him the life and the nature of it; and the  
 next day the *waggoners* arriv'd with it. *Gulliver's Travels.*  
**WAGTAIL**. *n. f.* A bird. *Ainsworth.*  
**WAID**. *v. a.* [I suppose for *weighed*.] Crushed.  
 His horse *waid* in the back, and shoulder shorten. *Shakespeare.*  
**WAIF**. *n. f.* [*waivium*, *waivium*, law Lat. from *waive*.] Goods  
 found, but claim'd by no body; that of which every one  
 waves the claim. Commonly written *waif*. *Ainsworth.*  
**TO WAIL**. *v. a.* [*gualare*, Italian.] To moan; to lament; to  
 bewail.  
 Wife men ne'er *wail* their present woes,  
 But presently prevent the ways to *wail*. *Shakespeare.*  
 Say, if my spouse maintains her royal trust?  
 Or if no more her absent lord she *wails*,  
 But the false woman o'er the wife prevails? *Pope.*  
**TO WAIL**. *v. n.* To grieve audibly; to express sorrow.  
 Son of man *wail* for the multitude. *Ez. xxxii. 18.*  
 I will *wail* and howl. *Mic. i. 8.*  
**WAIL**. *n. f.* Audible sorrow.  
 Around the woods  
 She sighs her song, which with her *wail* resound. *Thomson.*  
**WAILING**. *n. f.* [from *wail*.] Lamentation; moan; audible  
 sorrow.  
 The camp filled with lamentation and mourning, which  
 was increased by the weeping and *wailing* of them,  
 which should never see their brethren. *Kneller.*  
 Other cries amongst the Irish, favour of the Scythian bar-  
 barism; as the lamentations of their burials, with despairful  
 outcries, and immoderate *wailings*. *Spenser's Ireland.*  
 Take up *wailing* for us, that our eyes may run down with  
 tears. *Jer. ix. 18.*  
 The *wailings* of a maiden I recite. *Gay.*  
**WAILFUL**. *adj.* [from *wail* and *full*.] Sorrowful; mourn-  
 ful.  
 Lay time to tangle her desires  
 By *wailful* fonnets, whose composed rhimes  
 Should be full fraught with serviceable vows. *Shakespeare.*  
**WAIN**. *n. f.* [contracted from *wagen*.] A carriage.  
 There ancient night arriving, did alight  
 From her high weary *wain*. *Spenser.*  
 Yours be the harvest; 'tis the beggar's gain,  
 To glean the fallings of the loaded *wain*. *Dryden.*  
**WAINROPE**. *n. f.* [*wain* and *rope*.] A large cord, with which  
 the load is tied on the wagon.  
 Oxen and *wainropes* cannot hale them together. *Shakespeare.*  
**WAINSCOT**. *n. f.* [*waineschot*, Dutch.] The inner wooden co-  
 vering of a wall.  
 Some have the veins more varied and chambletted; as  
 oak, whereof *wainscot* is made. *Bacon.*  
 She never could part with plain *wainscot* and clean hang-  
 ings. *Arbutnot.*  
 A rat your utmost rage desires,  
 That safe behind the *wainscot* lies. *Swift.*  
**TO WAINSCOT**. *v. a.* [*waineschotten*, Dutch.]  
 1. To line walls with boards.  
 Musick foundeth better in chambers *wainscotted*, than  
 hang'd. *Bacon.*  
 2. To line in general.  
 It is most curiously lined, or *wainscotted*, with a white testa-  
 ceous crust, of the same substance and thickness with the  
 tubuli marini. *Grew.*  
 One side commands a view of the garden, and the other is  
*wainscotted* with looking-glass. *Addison's Guardian.*  
**WAIR**. *n. f.* [In carpentry.] A piece of timber two yards long,  
 and a foot broad. *Bailey.*  
**WAIST**. *n. f.* [*swaz*, Welsh; from the verb *swafen*, to press  
 or bind.]  
 1. The smallest part of the body; the part below the ribs.  
 The one seem'd woman to the *waist*, and fair,  
 But ended foul in many a scaly fold,  
 Voluminous and vast. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. ii.*

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She, as a veil, down to her slender *waist*,  
 Her unadorn'd golden tresses wore,  
 Dishevel'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. ii.*  
 They seiz'd, and with entangling folds embrac'd,  
 His neck twice compassing, and twice his *waist*. *Denham.*  
 Stiff stays constrain her slender *waist*. *Gay.*  
 2. The middle deck, or floor of a ship.  
 Sheets of water from the clouds are sent,  
 Which hissing through the planks, the flames prevent,  
 And stop the fiery pest: four ships alone  
 Burn to the *waist*, and for the fleet atone. *Dryden.*  
**TO WAIT**. *v. a.* [*wachten*, Dutch.]  
 1. To expect; to stay for.  
 Bid them prepare within;  
 I am to blame to be thus *waited* for. *Shakespeare.*  
 Aw'd with these words, in camps they still abide,  
 And *wait* with longing looks their promis'd guide. *Dryden.*  
 Such courage did the ancient heroes show,  
 Who, when they might prevent, would *wait* the blow. *Dryden.*  
 2. To attend; to accompany with submission or respect.  
 He chose a thousand horse, the flower of all  
 His warlike troops, to *wait* the funeral. *Dryden.*  
 3. To attend as a consequence of something.  
 Remorse and heaviness of heart shall *wait* thee,  
 And everlasting anguish be thy portion. *Rowe.*  
 4. To watch as an enemy.  
 He is *waited* for the sword. *Job xv. 22.*  
**TO WAIT**. *v. n.*  
 1. To expect; to stay in expectation.  
 All the days of my appointed time will I *wait* till my  
 change come. *Job xiv. 14.*  
 The poultry stand  
*Waiting* upon her charitable hand. *Gay.*  
 2. To pay servile or submissive attendance.  
 Though Syrinx your Pan's mistress were,  
 Yet Syrinx well might *wait* on her. *Milton's Arcades.*  
 One morning *waiting* on him at Caulham, smiling upon  
 me, he said, he could tell me some news of myself. *Denham.*  
 Fortune and victory he did pursue,  
 To bring them, as his slaves, to *wait* on you. *Dryden.*  
 A parcel of soldiers robbed a farmer of his poultry, and  
 then made him *wait* at table. *Swift.*  
 3. To attend. A phrase of ceremony.  
 The dinner is on the table; my father desires your wor-  
 ship's company.—  
 —I will *wait* on him. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*  
 4. To stay; not to depart from.  
 How shall we know when to *wait* for, when to decline  
 persecution. *South's Sermons.*  
 With Vulcan's rage the rising winds conspire,  
 And near our palace rolls the flood of fire;  
 Haste, my dear father, 'tis no time to *wait*,  
 And load my shoulders with a willing freight.  
 I know, if I am deprived of you, I die;  
 But oh! I die, if I *wait* longer for you. *A. Phillips.*  
 5. To stay by reason of some hindrance.  
 6. To look watchfully.  
 It is a point of cunning to *wait* upon him, with whom you  
 speak, with your eye, as the Jesuits give it in precept. *Bacon.*  
 7. To lie in ambush as an enemy.  
 Such ambush *waited* to intercept thy way. *Milton.*  
 8. To follow as a consequence.  
 It will import those men who dwell careless, to enter into  
 serious consultation how they may avert that ruin, which *waits*  
 on such a supine temper. *Decay of Piety.*  
**WAIT**. *n. f.* Ambush; insidious and secret attempts.  
 If he hurl at him by laying of *wait*, that he die; he that  
 smote him shall be put to death. *Numb. xxxv. 20.*  
 Why fast thou like an enemy in *wait*? *Milton.*  
**WAITER**. *n. f.* [from *wait*.] An attendant; one who attends  
 for the accommodation of others.  
 Let the drawers be ready with wine and fresh glasses;  
 Let the *waiters* have eyes, though their tongues must be  
 ty'd. *B. Johnson's Tavern Academy.*  
 The least tart or pic,  
 By any *waiter* there stolen and set by. *Bp. Corbet.*  
 A man of fire is a general enemy to all the *waiters* where  
 you drink. *Tatler, N<sup>o</sup>. 61.*  
 The *waiters* stand in ranks; the yeomen cry,  
 Make room. *Swift.*  
**WAITING**. *n. f.* [*wait*.] An upper ser-  
**WAITING**. *n. f.* [*wait*.] A lady in ser-  
**WAITING**. *n. f.* [*wait*.] A lady in ser-  
 He made me mad,  
 To talk so like a *waiting-gentleman*,  
 Of guns, and drums, and wounds. *Shakespeare. Hen. IV.*  
 Flibbertigibbet, prince of mopping and mowing, since pos-  
 sesses chamber-maids and *waiting-women*. *Shakespeare. K. Lear.*  
 The *waiting-woman* might be conversant in romance. *Swift.*  
 The *waiting-maid* hopes to ingratiate herself. *Swift.*